

When Pappas Telecasting Companies "donate" \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in selected areas, we witness yet another shameful example of the abuse of priveleged access to public broadcasting.

During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not dishonest offers to make available the "purchase" of an equal amount of response time. Localsim is of course NOT served, but subverted, in this strikingly phony manner.

Pappas uses public airways free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Does Pappas intend to serve the public interest? Based on its legally questionable actions, the answer is "no."

The actions of Pappas clearly demonstrate the need for strengthening media ownership rules and furthermore indicate why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.